The University of Alberta Department of Music,
The Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology,
and folkwaysAlive!

present

Festival of Lights: Music and Dance of India

Featuring

U of A Indian Music Ensemble Faculty
Amie Maciszewski, Director – sitar
Seema Ganatra – sitar
Sharmila Mathur – sitar
Ojas Joshi – tabla

Indian Music Ensemble Members

and Special Guests

Saturday, December 2, 2006
at 8:00 pm
Arts Building
University of Alberta

Canadian Centre
for
Ethnomusicology

folkwaysAlive!
University of Alberta in partnership with
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Festival of Lights: Music and Dance of India

Program

Welcome by Amitoj Bhogal, Master of Ceremonies

Solo sitar and tabla recital – Amie Maciszewski and Ojas Joshi

Vocal and tabla recital - Kamaljeet Bajwa and Rohan Bhogal

INTERMISSION

Ensemble performance

- **"Swarakakali"**
- **Raga Durga**

Amie Maciszewski, Seema Ganatra, and Sharmila Mathur – sitar
Ojas Joshi, Jeevan Patel, Rohan Bhogal – tabla
Niyati Dhokai – violin, Meera Varghese – Bharat Natyam
Kamaljeet Bajwa – vocal

The Artists

Dr Amie Maciszewski, Ensemble and Artistic Director
Amie Maciszewski is a sitarist, ethnomusicologist, and Hindustani music educator. She initially trained at Santiniketan, India, under the late Prof. Suresh Misra, where she earned B.Mus.("First Class First") and M.Mus. degrees.Disciple of sarode maestro Aashish Khan and Hindustani vocal diva Padmabhushan Girija Devi since the early 1990s, Amie has performed throughout North America, in India, Europe, and Japan, and has taught in North America since 1986. She has received numerous awards and grants for her scholarship and education/outreach through performance, ensemble directing, and documentary filmmaking. She earned the Ph.D. in ethnomusicology at University of Texas at Austin and has taught both applied music and academic courses on the faculties of the Universities of Alberta (as a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in 2001 and 2002 and currently as director of the Indian Music Ensemble), Pittsburgh, and Texas. In 2005, she performed to enthusiastically receptive audiences at several venues in Kolkata, India, among them the prestigious Sangeet Research Academy. She has published several articles and made two films (and a third in progress) documenting her research with socially marginalized women musicians in India.

An itinerant resident of Austin, Texas, since 1993, she has been active in the city's music scene as performer, ensemble leader and member, instructor, and presenter. A Cultural Contractor with the City of Austin Cultural Arts Program since 2000, she has received support for projects bringing together local artists with Indian music and dance maestros for workshops and collaborative performances. She has also worked on film soundtracks for the 2003 S X SW Festival Trailers and Tod Browning's 1927 silent thriller "The Unknown." **www.sangeetmillennium.org**

Ojas Joshi - tabla
Ojas began training in the art of Indian classical percussion in 1988, with primary focus on the Hindustani (northern) traditions. His training to date is a combination of formal instruction, personal exploration and riyaz (practice), and performing with classical vocalists and instrumentalists. He is truly privileged to be a disciple of the great Tabla exponents Ustad Zakir Hussain, Fazal Qureshi, and the legendary late Ustad Alla Rakha.

Ojas has provided percussion for local theatre, dance, and fusion performances. His concerts have included everything from rock to classical. He has performed with such artists as The Tea Party, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Indian vocalist Shweta Jhaveri, Kathak dancer Maulik Shah and the world-renowned Zakir Hussain.

In 2000 he composed the original music for the contemporary dance piece *Azul Abierto*, which was enthusiastically received in dance festivals throughout Europe. He founded the world beat fusion group Moksha, which released its first CD *Lady Sun* in 2004, and is the percussionist of the avant-garde group AUDio SQUADron. In addition, he has been teaching tabla at the University of Alberta, Centre for Ethnomusicology as a part of the Indian Music Ensemble since 2003.

Dr Seema Ganatra - sitar
Seema Ganatra started playing the sitar at the age of 11. She has learned Indian Classical music from the sarod maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan at the Ali Akbar College of Music in California and from his son Ustad Aashish Khan. She has performed as a solo sitarist and as an accompanist for a number of years. In addition to her part time appointment in the Department of Music as sitar instructor in the Indian Music Ensemble, she is also a full time clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Dentistry at the University of Alberta.

Sharmila Mathur – sitar
Born in Jaipur, India, Sharmila received her Master of Music degree and was honored with a Gold Medal by the University of Rajasthan for her outstanding achievements in sitar. Being the foremost disciple of Grammy Award winner Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Sharmila has been able to learn unique techniques of Bhatt's beautiful style.

She has been an Assistant Professor in the University of Rajasthan, teaching Music to graduate and post-graduate students. Along with her stage performances Sharmila played for All India Radio and Television. While living in Africa and Dubai for the last fourteen years, Sharmila performed in a variety of ensembles.

A recent arrival in Edmonton, Sharmila has been teaching Sitar to share her knowledge and passion for Hindustani classical music.

Niyati Dhokai – violin
Niyati Dhokai studied violin performance and pedagogy at the University of Maryland and George Mason University, during which time she maintained an extensive private teaching studio and performed as a chamber and orchestral musician. She now attends the University of Alberta pursuing a master's degree in ethnomusicology through which she is studying North Indian music.

Dr Kamaljeet Bajwa – vocal
Kamaljeet Kaur Bajwa started learning to sing classical Indian music at the age of four. Her first guru was her father, the late Sri Narinder Singh, an exponent of the Punjab gharana of tabla playing. Her musical path has combined artistry with scholarship. She stood first in both her Bachelor's and Master's of Music batches at Punjab University, Chandigarh, where she also earned the Ph.D., completing a dissertation on riyaz (practice) in Indian classical music. Other gurus who have trained her include distinguished artists of the Patiala and Agra gharanas of Hindustani vocal music, such as Pandit Madan Lal Bali, Dr. Bhupinder Seetal, Pandit Yashpaul. She continues her lifelong study under Pandit Baldev Narang and Ustad Barkat Sidhu. Kamaljeet earned the "Best Vocalist of the Year" award in Chandigarh in 1995. For the past eight years, she has taught classical music vocal to students of all levels from young children to graduate students. A versatile artist, she feel equally at home singing khyal, tarana, thumri, shabad and ghazal, as well as composing music.

Kamaljeet has performed at different venues in India and Canada, most notably the prestigious Hariballabh Sangeet Sammelam in Jallandhar. A recent arrival in Edmonton, she is looking forward to teaching and performing in this field so that she can spread the music and share her passion with others.

Meera Varghese – Bharat Natyam
Meera Varghese specializes in Bharat Natyam (South Indian classical dance) as a performer, choreographer, and instructor. Born and raised in Ontario, Meera received her Bharat Natyam training under S. Ramalingam in Karaikal, India. Currently a student in the M.A. Ethnomusicology program at the University of Alberta, Meera also teaches Bharat Natyam classes for Campus Recreation in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Meera has danced in numerous festivals across Canada and in India, including the 2001 Summer Games (London, Ontario), Kalanidhi Dance Festival (Toronto), Expanse New Works Dance Festival (Edmonton), and Mangini Festival (Karaikal, India).

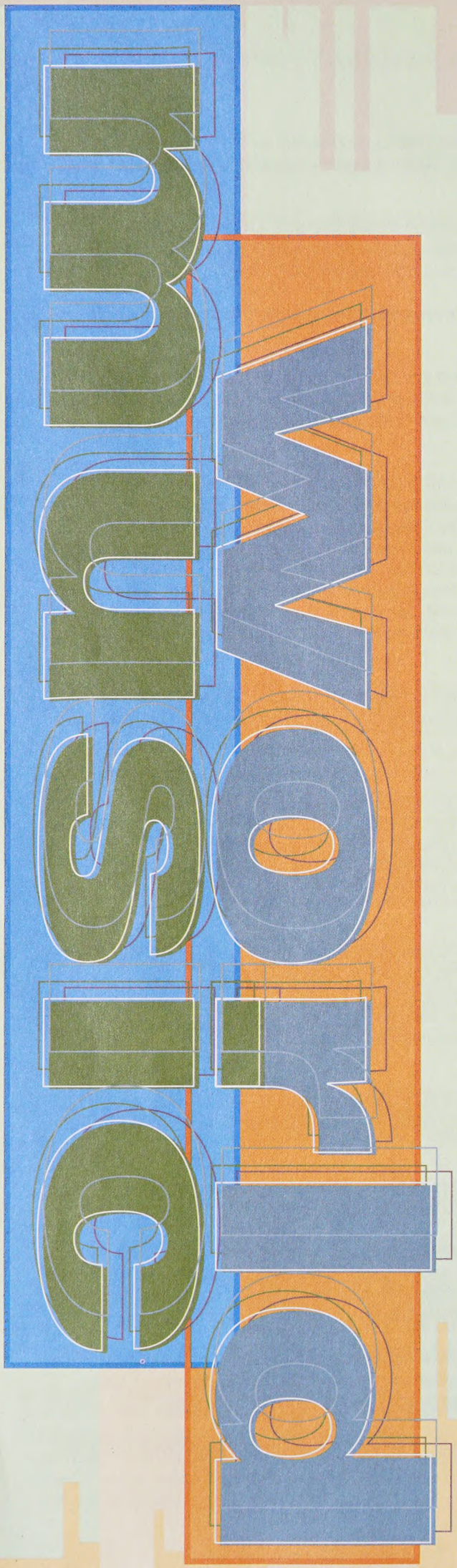
Meera is also an accomplished vocalist, flutist, and pianist, having recently completed her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Alberta. She has performed in numerous opera productions and has worked as Musical Director, Conductor, and Pianist for musical theatre productions in Ontario and Alberta. Meera has been awarded the 2002 Speake Gold Medal for Voice (top score in Canada), the Carol Connors Arts Award (2002), the Varagur Vainkunta and Sarada Srinivasan Award for Indian Music (2003), and the Bahai Race Unity Award (2002) for her work promoting cultural awareness in London, Ontario.

Rohan Singh Bhogal – tabla
Rohan is a native of Edmonton. His interest in music was noticed by his parents at a very early age. Without any formal training, he was able to master complex rhythm cycles before he could even count. At the age of eight, he went to California to study tabla with Zakir Hussain, where he was surrounded by mostly adult students.

His family's dedication to his talent led to various sacrifices, such as month long stays at hotels. Over the years under watchful eyes of Zakir Hussain, Rohan has developed into a very capable musician with graceful and sweet hands that are treat to watch and listen.

Rohan's accomplishments are nothing but impressive, He won first place at the "Talent Explosion" competition for North Alberta and was chosen to perform at the "Big Valley Jamboree" in Canmore. In the year 2000, sitarist Ustad Shujaat Khan spotted his talent and asked Rohan to accompany him for a presentation with the University of Alberta students. Rohan accompanied Ustad Aashish Khan at the age of fourteen. The same year, the renowned Ghazal Maestro Jagjit Singh invited Rohan to perform with him in a concert that Edmontonians still remember.
His moment of international fame came in 2004 when he was invited to perform a tabla solo recital at India's oldest, prestigious music festival, "Harballabh Sangeet Sammelan". He was the youngest and first-ever Canadian to perform there, receiving rave reviews. During his visit to India, he also had the opportunity to perform solo in the Namdhari Satguruji's presence in Gurdwara Bhaini Sahib.

Rohan is also very serious about his studies and is an honors student in the final year of the IB programme at Ross Sheppard High School.



Join us!

World Music Ensembles
Upcoming Events
Convocation Hall, Arts Building

Thursday, March 22 at 8:00 pm
Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble
Michael Frishkopf, Director
For concert information,
email: michaelf@ualberta.ca

Friday, March 23 at 8:00 pm
Indian Music Ensemble
Sharmila Mathur, Director
For concert information, e-mail:
sanjaysharmila@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 pm
West African Music Ensemble
Robert Kpogo, Director
For concert information,
email: rkpogo@shaw.ca

department of Music

Admission: $10/stud/sen, $15/adult
For ticket information, please contact the Department of Music,
Fine Arts Building 3-82,
telephone: 492-0601